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MANUSCRIPTS

FROM

The Burton Historical Collection

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COLLECTED AND PUBLISHED BY

C. M. BURTON

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NUMBER 1

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Edited by  
M. Agnes Burton

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DETROIT, MICH., OCTOBER, 1916

Trent University Library  
PETERBOROUGH, ONT.



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## P R E F A C E

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In the Burton Historical Library, Detroit has a possession of very great historical value, unapproachable so far as the history of Detroit and Michigan is concerned, and of great value for the history of the Old Northwest. Containing as it does a large collection of printed material and many rare volumes and pamphlets, its chief value to the student and historian lies in the mass of manuscripts which many years of untiring industry, intelligence and liberal expenditure have co-operated in bringing together.

A few instances will illustrate the character and value of the papers bearing on the early history of Michigan and the Old Northwest.

Solomon Sibley came to Detroit from Ohio in 1796. As lawyer, judge and public official in other capacities, he was an important factor in Detroit and Michigan, socially and politically. His papers, collected and arranged, are of great interest and historical importance, containing many letters from high public personages, letters from Senator Worthington, W. H. Harrison and others, throwing light on the creation of the Territory of Michigan, documents of the estate of James Henry (of which he was administrator) relating to business conditions, and other legal documents.

William Woodbridge came to Michigan from Ohio in 1814. A capable lawyer of large practice, he was Secretary of the Territory, Collector of Customs, Governor of the State, United States Senator, and influential citizen in general. He kept all papers and letters which he received, and made drafts of many of his replies, and together his papers form a large depository of inestimable value in showing the political, social and economical conditions in Michigan from 1817 to 1866.

Many unpublished photostatic copies of letters and documents from the War Department at Washington relating to Michigan, General Hull, the War of 1812, General Harrison and other subjects have recently been added.

With this mine of historical wealth Detroit owes a duty to itself to do something to make known some portion of its richness to historical students. While the Library was owned by Mr. Burton he made it free to all historical investigators and now that it has become a part of the Public Library of Detroit the same policy is pursued, and the project of Mr. Burton to draw the attention of the interested public by printing some of the Library's unused and unknown documents seems highly desirable.

W. L. JENKS,

*Member Michigan Historical Commission.*

Vol 450 p 88

## SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON TO EDWARD COLLINS

Dr. Sr.—

I have made a purchase of the Bearer Mr. Lodowick Castlemans land, at Stoneraby Cont. of 280 acres or thereabouts for £200, and now I hear there is a Mortgage upon it for £70 wh I would desire the favour of you to enquire Strictly into. I hear it is to Robt. Roseboom in Albany—if so you can easily know it. I doubt I cant go down soon wherfore would desire the favour of you to get a good firm Deed drawn for Sd. Land, and send it up to me p first Safe hand. You will see his Writeings, which he has along with him, and he will tell you the Name's of the Lotts I have the Mill with all belonging thereto in the Bargain Also whatever Moveables he does not take along with him as you will see by the inclosed kind of a memorandum wh. I had him to sign, and paid him in part 70 pounds. You'll please to send me p bearer the amount of that Sum wh. he was arrested for, together with all the charges thereto belonging that I may settle with him er'e he goes. if you have any News shall be obliged to you for it I wish you would send me the last Acts of Assembly, or at least that relating to the Duty of Showds and Rum wh. was altered last Session. Yr. kind Compliance together with all former favours will vastly oblige

Sr. yr. Unfeigned friend & Humble Servt.

W.M. JOHNSON\*

My kind respects to Mrs. Collins.  
Feby. the 27th 1754-5.

To Edward Collins Esqr.  
at Albany.

## STEPHEN DANFORD TO ELIPHIELET HARDY

Crown Point July ye 16 1762

onered sir. I take this opertonetly to wright to you hopeing these few Loynes will find you all in as good helth as they Leave me at this time Blessed b god for the Same i would

\*Sir William Johnson, born in Ireland in 1715, came to America to manage an estate of his uncle, Sir Peter Warren in the valley of the Mohawk, New York, in 1738. In 1746 he was made commissary of New York for Indian affairs and in 1755 superintendent of the Six nations. Upon first coming to America he married a German girl who soon died leaving him a son John, knighted in 1765 and two daughters. His second wife was a daughter of an Indian chief. After her death he married Molly Brant, sister of the famous chief Joseph Brant, Johnson died at Johnstown, N. Y., July 11, 1774.

enform you that Daniel is not hear he is at work at Putmons Point a Cuting timber for the fort i have receved a Leter from him this Day and he is in good helth But did not know that he Could Send a Leter home by this man and i thought it proper to send a line to you and i hop you will not take it a mis i would enform you that all the Bradford men ar in good helth at this time and it is as helthy a time as ever was nown Mr Elliott is in Good helth and Remembers his love to you all

Daniel Mulken\* is in good helth and Desires to be Remembered to his mother and all that ask after him Remember my Love to uncel Sameuel Parker and his wife and to Eliplielet hardy and wife and all that ask after me

So no more at Present Bout i remeing

I hope you will send a Letor  
by this men to Daniel for I think  
much of him

Your humble Servant  
STEPHEN DANFORD

Addressed:  
to Capt Eliplielet hardy  
Liven in Bradford  
with Care and Sped

ELIPHELET HARDY TO DANIEL HARDY  
Crown Point

Daniel Hardy my Son

these few loines com to you to let you Know how it is with us at hom we are in trouble we have bured two of our Children with the canker Rebeckah and Phines and Ednar is not wel but the rest of us are wel at present and we desire to Bles god for it and we hop these few Lins will find you in good helth we would have you send us word hou you do as ofen as you can we have received two leters from you we have sent three leters to you i desire to be Remembred to all that ask after me and i would in form you that the season of the year hes ben very dry which hath cut short the crops

\*Daniel Mulken (Mullicken, Mulliken) was a private in Capt. Nath. Gage's minute men. He fought at the Lexington Alarm, April 19, 1775 and also at Bunker Hill.

both for man and beast so no more at present but we remain  
 your tender parents until death daniel Hardy  
 Bradford Agust the 18 day in the year 1762

ELIPHELET HARDY\*

To Daniel Hardy  
 Att Crown Point  
 or Putmons Point  
 under Capt Huchens

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### JEREMIAH CUMINGS TO SIMEON CUMINGS

Dunstable August 13—1762

To Semeon Cumings:†

My love to you and Richard Whiney and to all inquiring friends a Round you I would in forme you that we are well and that it is in general time of helth in this Naborehood Blessed Be god for it hoping these Lines will find you so I all so would in forme you that yester Day I was at Brother Nathanel Cumings to se him and he Remains in a very week and lo Condisone and not much hope of his Recovery—if you or any of our Nabours with you should Be in week corcomstance a Bout Coming hom are desired to Rite to me or some of our frinds and we will a ford you some help if possible—I would in forme you that we Received Some Letters from you and the Last Dat was in July—ye—19 time is short and paper is Scarce I rite no more at present—

So I remain your Loving Brother—

JEREMIAH CUMINGST

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### STEPHEN NORWOOD TO SIMEON CUMINGS AND LETTER FROM SIMEON

Dunstable the 13 Aug 1762

Simeon, Sr

After my kind Love to you and all Dunstable Boys I took this opertunity to Write these few Lines to you hopeing they may fine you all in a Good State of Health as I am at this present Writeing it is a General time of health amongst us tho it is a Very Dry time here and things are almost Dried

\*The Hardy family was a prominent early family at Bradford, Mass.

†Jeremiah and Simeon Cummings, brothers and members of a prominent old Dunstable family. Simeon became a lieutenant. He died March 23, 1817, aged 73 yrs. and was buried in Central Cemetery, Dunstable, Mass. Jeremiah died Oct. 10, 1773, aged 45 yrs. and was buried in the same cemetery.

up Be Pleased to Remember me to Richard & Jonathan & Woodward Samuel Comings Jonas Butterfield & Peltiah Whittsmore & to all with whom I am aquanted and all that aske after me I should be very Glad to see you all & I pray God to Prosper you all and keep you all & Return you all home Safe.

This is the Wish & desire  
of Yor Loving Freind  
STEPHEN NORWOOD

Simon Desire of those who have sweethearts here not to forget them But chear them up with Letters Since they cannot have their Company for they Begin to Look very Dull Paper is scarce no Dowt with you So we have sent you half a sheet

Your Friend  
Stephen Norwood

To Mr Simeon Cumings In his Maj Sarvis at Crown Point in the Company of Capt Edwards & Coll Ingwersol Regiment These with care & sped

Crown Point 17th October y 1762

Loving Brother and Sister I tak this opertunity to Rit to you hoping the Same Will find you in good helth as throw the goodness of god that left me all Dunstable men is well but Jonathan Bloget and John Rolens that are both Six Both not Dangerous I hop this is the :2: Letter that I hav Sent you and had one from you i would in form You that if I am well I do not expect to be at hum in a-bout a month no more at present But I Reman

Your Loving Brother  
SEMEON CUMINGS

paper is scars pen is por so mi desire to be excused

Mr Jermiah Cumings  
in Dunstable in New England  
this with care & Sped

## PASSPORT FOR MESSERS LANGLADE.

Vol. 103 p 1

Michilimackinak 15th April 1763

I have of this date given permission to Messers Langlade pere et fils\* to go to live at the post of LaBay & do here—by order that no person may interrupt them in thier Voyage thither with thier Wives Children Servants & Bagage

GEO ETHERINGTON†  
Commandant

Langlade

Vol. 450 p 45

DEED OF SALE DAVID FERRIS & PETER WRIGHT  
100 ACRES—19 DEC 1764

Whereas His Majesty King George the Third has been graciously Pleased to Grant Certain allowances of Land In North America to the Reduced Officers & Soldiers that served there during the Late War by Proclamation of the 7th Oct. 1763—

And whereas we the Subscribers hereunto are Intitled to One hundred Acres of Land being our allowance by said proclamation & had our Discharges attested before the Governor of New York

Now this indenture Witnesseth that we David Ferris and Peter Wright, both of the 55 Regmt Reduced—For and in Consideration of the sum of Three Pounds Current Money of New York to us in hand paid by William Cockburn of the City of New York, Land Surveyor the Receipt Whereof we do hereby acknowledge for our selves our heirs, Executors and Administrators, do Covinant, Grant and agree to and with the said William Cochburn, his Heirs & Assigns, that we will grant, Release & Convey in due form of Law into him the said William Cockburn, or to any other Person or Persons whom the Said William Cockburn shall appoint, all our Rights Title Interests Property, Claim and demand of in & to the Aforesaid One hundred Acres—as soon as Conveniently

\*Messrs. Langlade pere et fils were Sieur Augustine Langlade and his son Charles who were men of importance and influence among the Indians of Michilimackinac at the time. Charles was commissioned in 1760 by Louis XV, and appointed second in command at that post. They were both residing at Michilimackinac at the time of the massacre, June 4, 1763 not having availed themselves of the permission to go to La Bay. Capt. Etherington appointed Langlade in command of the fort when he went to make his report on the massacre.

†George Etherington took command of Michilimackinac in August 1762. During the massacre he was taken prisoner but was soon released. In 1772 he was in command at Niagara.

may be after the Grant of the same shall have the seal of the Province of New York And do further testifie that we have Signed a Blank sheet of Paper to be applyed in any maner or way the said William Cockburn shall direct in order to Secure him in the Premises aforesaid

In Witness Whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals at New York this Nineteenth Day of December 1764

David Ferris  
Peter Wright

[Seal]  
[Seal]

Sealed signed and Delivered in the presence of William Stewart  
David Thomson

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Vol. 450 p 89.

GUY CARLETON TO SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON

Sir.  
Quebec 16th. March 1768.

I thought it needless to trouble You with an Answer to your Letter of 21st May last, untill I could transmit the Sentiments of the trading People of this Province upon your Regulations for the Indian Trade, which for that Purpose had been Communicated to them, the very instant they came to my Hand; it was some Time before I received the Observations thereupon, which are herewith inclosed, and tho' they contain some improper Expressions, which I by no Means approve, yet I thought it more expedient to convey the same in their own Words, that you might the better Judge of the Arguments used by themselves—

The Point, they seem principally to rest upon, is the Restraint of trading at the Forts, and 'tis indeed the very general Opinion of all those I have conversed with that the Trade to the Upper Country must inevitably be ruined, if that Regulation be continued; it is confidently Asserted, the number of Canoes, to be sent up this Year will fall very short of what was usual in former ones, and are likely still to decrease, so that probably in a short Time, that valuable Branch of Commerce will dwindle to Nothing—

The People here are also very desirous as you will observe by the annexed Petition, that the Vending of Spirits to the

Savages, Destructive of their Species, as well as of the Trade itself, should be restricted within the most moderate Bounds; And herein I am perfectly disposed to concur with the neighbouring Provinces, in every Measure, You may Point out as necessary to bring about so desirable an end, as agreeable to natural Justice, with Respect to the Savages, to whom this Trade is destructive, as it is to the Common Interests of the Colonies, for the Preservation of the Peace and general Tranquility of the Country, as well as of the very Trade itself—

In Justice however to the Merchants and People concerned in the Trade of this Province, I am to assure you, that I never heard one of them cast the least Reflection upon You, or speak of you otherwise, than in terms of the greatest Deference and Regard; they readily believe those Regulations have been made with the best Views to serve the Public, but they are Confident the End proposed thereby has not been answered, and therefore Request, as all Human Institutions savours of Imperfections, this, which was intended for a Benefit, may be carefully revised, and that if experience, of which they consider themselves as the Examples, Demonstrates the same to be erroneous, that they may be rectified and amended—

With Respect to the Canadians, when I make use of that Appellation, it is entirely confined to those who inhabit the present Limits of the Province and in no Shape regards those, who, encouraged by the French Government, have settled at Detroit, the Illinois, or other Places, for the Sake of Colonisation, and by the Peace are become the King's Subjects;— or those extra Provincials, who have expatriated themselves, to give a Loose to their own vicious Inclinations, against whom from Time to Time very severe Ordinances have been issued by the French Governors and Intendants, proscribing them as a Nuisance to Society, and Directing them to be seized and imprisoned, wherever met with, and of this Class, are the Bandits whose Names you transmited to the Commander in Chief, at least, as I am here credibly informed; That loose and disorderly Persons, like these, may prove the Authors of Mischief, I no ways doubt, but living without the Bounds of my Jurisdiction, it cannot lie with me to Remedy the Abuse Should any actually belonging to this Province seek to excite Troubles, or to promote Confusion, Upon proper and well authenticated Proofs of such evil Intention, every legal Method shall be employed, whoever they are or may be, to bring them to condign Punishment, in order to deter others from treading in the same Steps—

Before I leave this subject, I must further assure you, that as I never heard Sir William Johnson's name used, but where

some Mention has been made of his Services to the State, You may rest Satisfied, that in whatever I have had Ocassion to write thereupon to the King's other Servants, or Yourself, my sole View has been to promote this Service and the public Welfare; I thought it a Duty incumbent upon me to point out a Mistake, at least as it appeared to me, which bears hard upon that Part of the King's Subjects committed to my Charge; after all the best and wisest of Ministers have erred, and Points that wear the fairest Appearance in Speculation, when reduced into Practice, are found inconvenient, To the afore-mentioned Motives, I am therefore persuaded, You will only impute whatever I have said or done here in, and not to any want of that perfect Regard and Esteem for Yourself, with which I ever am

Sir  
Your most Obedient  
Humble Servant  
GUY CARLTON\*

Honble. Sir Willm Johnson Bart.  
Supert. for Indian Affairs etc,

Quebec 16th March 1768  
From Lt Gov. Carlton  
with an inclosure

Vol. 450 p 88

### INDIAN FRONTIER TROUBLES

To the honorable the Representatives of the Freemen of the Province of Pennsylvannia in General Assembly Met January 1770

The Petition of sundry Inhabitants of said Province Trading with the Indians on the Western Frontiers of the same Most humbly Sheweth

That since the Peace your Petitioners have Carried on a Considerable Trade with the Delawares Shawnese and other Indians on the Ohio from which Considerable Advantages arise to this province and without such a Trade your Petitioners humbly presume the Friendship and Amity of those Indians with the Province Cannot be presented.

\*Guy Carleton was born in Ireland in 1724, entered military service very young seeing nearly all of his service in America. He was nominated Knight of the Bath in 1776 and made Lord Dorchester in 1786. In 1772 he was made governor of Quebec which position he held until 1782 when he was appointed Commander-in-chief of the British Army in America. He was again appointed governor in 1786 and occupied the position until he was succeeded by Maj. Gen. Prescott. He died in England in 1808.

That a Number of Men armed and Blackned on the Western Fronteer of Cumberland County have lately plundered destroyed and Carried off a Quantity of Merchandise Intended for said Trade the property of Mr Robert Callender\* And still Continue to Commit Acts of Violence and Outrage and not only Render it Extreamly Troublesome and Dangerous for your Petitioners to Carry on said Trade but subvert all legal Authority and good order in that Part of the County Wherefore your Petitioners pray the honorable House to take the Premises into Consideration and Grant such Relief as the honorable House shall think most Proper And your

Petitioners

Will Ever pray

Alex. Lowrey†

John Boggs

J Spear

Jas. Milligan

Devereuse Smith

Joseph Simon

Char McClure

Dan. Elliott

Jno. Gibson‡

Ens. Mackay

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### OBADIAH WITHERELL TO LEMUEL SCOTT

West point August 8th 1779

Dear Brother & Sister

after my Nearest regards to you I would Inform you that I have ben prety well for the most part but just now I am Poorly But hope these lines will find you & famely well as me by chance this Night befour Last I heard of Brother John Scott & sent after him & he came to my tent & staid untill bed time he is in the artificiers business he told me he set out for home but Could not Reach the Place he has Cum & is well & at work, but wants to Com home to Se his family but Know forlough will be given at home for artificiers are neaded Vary much & Cant be Spared I heard him Say he wanted to

\*Robert Callender was one of the most extensive Indian traders of that period and was one of the twenty-three who suffered in the Bloody River affair losing all his goods. He was captain in the Provincial Army in 1756-57 and received a land grant. His daughter Anna married Gen. Irvine. Mr. Callender died in 1776 and was buried at Carlisle, Pa.

†Alexander Lowrey, son of Lazarus Lowrey, was born in Ireland, December 1727 and came to America with his parents in 1729, settling in Lancaster Co. Pa. He followed his father's pursuit, Indian trading and for forty years was in partnership with Joseph Simon. He took an active part in the Revolution and died Jan. 31, 1806.

‡John Gibson, the interpreter of the celebrated speech of Logan, was an Indian trader, born at Lancaster, Pa., May 23, 1740. He served in the French and Indian wars, was taken prisoner by the Indians in 1763 and adopted by an aged squaw. In 1764 he was among the prisoners given over to Col. Boquet and then settled at Pittsburg. In 1774 he joined the expedition against the Shawnees under Lord Dunmore. During the Revolution he served among the Indians of Ohio. He died at Braddock's Field, Alleghany Co., April 10, 1822.

Send Som money home Safe & would Inbrace the first Opportunety we Expect Leiut mather up to the army Soon & by him will be a Good Chance,—you wrote to me of hard times with you but I cant hardly think you know what hard times are to be Equal to Ours but I Do Suppose that be Gives to hard for I am sure that has ben my lose for this long time—but Dont be Discouraged yet for hard times ant yet hard if felt with you when this army is Disbanded & another is Cald for to Supply our places & the Charges of the near are Called for by Rates when this is Dun & So much to Pay & we should be clear of the army & not Pitty you then hard times would be felt for I am Shur your tame lads that you had Sent up to us for 9 months at a time two years Runing wont Be paid by Continental Banks, Nether will we Cum home Contented with our Pertended wages I Sopose you call it So forty Shillings purmunth But we are anxious to Cum home Soon to Cloak you out forty Shillings Purmumth & you that has Giving Nine hundred Pounds besides four Pounds Pr. month to Nine months men will be Drove of with your old muskets to Defend the Entrest you have Colekted whilst we have on dun our Selves for the Cuntry—I Speak In a General Sence not meaning you be Couse I am Discoursing with you but you will find a Great part of this truth Elss I am mistaken—Give my complements to my friend if you know of any . you may tell them I am So harty I Dont mind it for we Shall be Shall be thick amongst you In a litel time So I conclude

Subscribing my Selfe your Loving Brother—

To Mr. Lemll Scott—

OBADIAH WITHERELL

To  
Mr Lemmule Scott  
Pipperell

Obadiah Witherall\*

to

James Witherell†

West point. Aug 8 1779

\*Obadiah Witherell (Wetherell) was born at Pepperell, Mass., Aug. 26, 1748, son of Charles and Ruth Wetherell. He enlisted from the same place in the regiment of Col. William Prescott in 1775. He rose to the rank of lieutenant and resigned Sept. 14, 1780. He suffered losses in the battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill. (Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors.)

†James Witherell was born in Mansfield, Mass.. July 16, 1759, and died in Detroit, Mich., Jan. 9, 1838. He won distinction in the Revolution, was U. S. representative from Vermont to Congress and came to Detroit as judge in 1808. He served for nearly twenty years and was then appointed secretary of the territory. One of his daughters was the wife of Thomas Palmer and mother of the late Sen. Thomas Witherell Palmer of Michigan, President of the World's Fair at Chicago, and Minister to Spain. (Proceedings of the Land Board of Detroit)

EXEAT A RAGIMENTS OF THE REG OF THE NEW  
ASTABLISHMENT & WHAT BRIGADES THAY BELONG TO.

Cambridge 1775

Colonels .....	Lt Colonels.....	Majors .....	Brigades
1 Thompson .....	Hand .....	Morgan .....	Rifelman
2 Read N Hampshear	Gilman .....	Hale .....	Sullivans
3 Lerned .....	Shepperd .....	Sprout .....	Thomass
4 Nixon .....	Nixon .....	Coburn .....	Sullivan
5 Starks .....	Poor .....	Moore .....	Sullivan
6 Brewer .....	Buckminster .....	Cudworth .....	Greens
7 Prescot .....	Molton .....	Wood .....	Heaths
8 Poor .....	McDuffee .....	Cilly .....	Sullivans
9 Varnum .....	Green .....	Carary .....	Greens
10 Parsons .....	Tyler .....	Prentice .....	Spencers
11 Hitchook .....	Cornwall .....	Angell .....	Greens
12 Littel .....	Hanshaw .....	Collins .....	Greens
13 Read Uxbridge .....	Clap .....	Smith .....	Spencer
14 Glover .....	Johnnott .....	Lee .....	Putnams
15 Patterson ...	Read .....	Sharburn .....	Heaths
16 Sergent .....	Enos .....	Austin .....	Putnams
17 Huntington .....	Clark .....	Humphris .....	Spencers
18 Phinney .....	March .....	Brown .....	Heaths
19 Wiell .....	Hall .....	Brooks .....	Sullivans
20 Arnold .....	Durke .....	Knowltion .....	Putnams
21 Ward .....	Tupper .....	Bigelow .....	Thomass
22 Willis .....	Putnam .....	Meigs .....	Spencers
23 Bailey .....	Jacobs .....	Houden .....	Thomass
24 Greaton .....	Vose .....	Loring .....	Heaths
25 Bond .....	Alden .....	Jackson .....	Greens
26 Boldwin .....	Wesson .....	Wood .....	Heaths
27 Hutchinson .....	Eager .....	Putnam .....	Greens

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JOHN TRUMBULL TO GEN. NATHANIEL GREENE

To General Green\* 1782

Dear General

I had the honour of yours by Capt Pendleton just about the time I had the pleasure of hearing that you had completed all the purposes of your Southern Expedition by the Reduction of Charleston & the retreat of the Enemy. I congratulate you on your recovery from illness for it would have been an unlucky time to have quitted the world before the Completion of that undertaking—But since that is now effected, I doubt whether you will ever find a better time to die in, for the sake of Reputation than the present. I say not this from motives of private Interest for tho' I acknowledge you would make a glorious Subject for poetical Elegies, as I should certainly send one after you by the first Conveyance Yet it would deprive me of the happiness of all

\*Gen. Nathaniel Greene (1742-1786) of Revolutionary fame.

future Interviews, with you, at least in this world, which my Vanity leads me with much warmth to anticipate & desire—and I would rather have the honor of one such living Friend to boast of in this world, than that of writing the best Elegy on forty dead ones. Nor do I give this advice from motives of Public Good, for the Public will undoubtedly have some further occasion for your Services, & are very unwilling yet to part with you, by what I can discover, tho' I have sounded Sundry people on the Subject. But I speak merely out of Friendship to & regard for your Reputation. I would wish to know what futher prospects you can have in this world, that can equal the Glory you have already acquired. Can there be any thing yet remaining in the present war that can bear any proportion to the Actions you have already performed? Is there an other Theatre in the world in which you would have Similar opportunity to display that Spirit undaunted by misfortune, & unchecked by obstacles that fertility of resources that activity of Enterprise, those military Stratagams, where the General effected the purposes to which his Army were almost infinitely inferior, & a thousand and other Talents, which very many people undertake to Say you have displayed in the course of your Command, & which I cannot find even the most Envious are very well able to contradict & disprove; or if such a Theatre were again offered, can you be certain that Fortune, who is apt to be very meddling in military matters, & who has several times disconcerted General Washington in some of the best concerted schemes ever invented, would always be equally propitious to your wishes. In short the best prospects I can see before you, are to continue almost inactive to the End of the war, & then retire to be Governor of one of the Southern States, a post to which so many have attained without any extradinory merit, that it is a kind of condescension in you to think of it—I have considered all possible objections to my Advice As to the fear of Death, You have so often met the Old Phantom face to face in the field, & shown your utter disregard of all his terrors & menaces that I cannot Conceive that to be any Objection—And leave it to Divines & Philosophers to determine whether when a man has attained to the highest pinnacle of earthly Glory, it be not a much shorter & easier Journey for him to step at once into Paradise than after he has descended again Several hundred Paces, towards the common level of Humanity—

(Unsigned letter of John Trumbull\*)

\*John Trumbull, born at Waterbury, Ct., April 24, 1750 author of "M'Fingal," the Hudibras of the Revolution, was the father-in-law of Gov. William Woodbridge of Michigan. Trumbull died at Detroit, Mich. May 12, 1831.

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POWER OF ATTORNEY—GUY CARLETON TO  
ALEXANDER ADAIR

Know all Men by These presents That I Sir Guy Carleton Lieutenant General of his Majestys Forces and Colonel of the 47th Regiment of Foot have made constituted and appointed and do These Presents make constitute and appoint Alexander Adair of Whitehall Esquire my true and Lawful Attorney for me and in my Name to contract for the Cloathing to be provided for the said Regiment or any other Regiment that His Majesty shall be pleased to give me the Command of and by good and sufficient Writing under his Hand and Seal to Assign over from time to time to such person or persons as He shall think proper for Cloathing to be by Him provided for the use of the said Regiment or any other Regiment I may Command and all the off reckonings or Cloathing Money of all and every the Sergeants Corporals Drummers Fifers and Private Men of the said Regiment or any other Regiment that may be under my Command and to do all that is requisite or necessary to be done in the premisses as fully and effectually as I myself might or could do if personally present In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this fifth day of April 1782 and in the Twenty-Second year of the Reign of our Soverign Lord George the third of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and so forth—

Guy Carleton [Seal]

Signed Sealed and delivered  
(being first duly Stamped)  
in the presence of  
W. Butt  
Marsh Kirch

Entered in the Office of the Right Hon'ble John Lord Viscount Mountstuart Auditor the 26th Aug. 1783

CHAS. HARRIS

Entered in the Office of the Right Honble Lewis Lord Sondes Auditor the 23 of April 1784

In Wigglesworth Dep of Aud

Vol. 817 Page 157.

WILLIAM ARUNDEL TO THOMAS WILLIAMS &amp; CO.

Sandusky 27th April 1782

Sir

You'l please receive the Packs as Mentioned I could not send the two Boats in at Prest as we are under the Necessity keeping one here in case of danger from the enemy to cut & run upon the first notice of their Approach, the Peltry is not yet come from the Shawaney Country nor will not be all here till the Latter end next Month the throught there will a quantity the reason it is not here is the roads was impracticable this Winter and the woods all Burnt in the fall so there was no food for the Horses, the Blankts you sent out were mostly Damg'd therefore must be sold per first opportunity them that are not Merchantable,

You'l please send us about 30 lbs Good Smoaking Tobacco of that raised in the Settlemt & two Casses of Tobacco, Whitaker beggs you'l be so good as Send him 8 Galls of Rum & Charge it to him as he expects to be in he'll pay you then, You'll please send the two Pd. flour,—and two pound Bohea tea—

Be so good as send the Boat off immedately as Soon as them things, and if Mr Baby has any thing to send S Gerty please let him know they can be sent by the Boat as well as LeVellie who I believe will come out in the Boat—

The news of the Place is per the Prisoner Brot in this Spring & from Difft parts is that great preparations are makg to come to Agt the Indian Country but not against Dt. as it must (as they say) fall of Course, the Defeat of Lord Cornwallis to the Southwd by the F & A has given them a Notion & its Resolve on the French Fleet to come round to Quebec & the A by the way of Lake Champlain, their Committee Man Just left the Congress when this was Resolved 'd on & their orders was when this was Resolve'd on & their orders was Accordingly Issued out for that purpose, they are now Recruiting & filling up the Vacancies & sending forces over the X X Mountain, and the People are Settling thicker along the Big River than Usual & are in great Spirits, I have got this out of the Prisoners they seem to be Stauch Americans and cannot Bear to hear any thing said by any of the rest here but in their favr, a Sundy last they Adopted two of them Brot in by Coone\* & party one was Recd & the other was to be in the place of  $\frac{1}{2}$  Kings Son killed last fall, who was Refus'd & ordd by the half King† to be given over to the Muncey's to be

\*Coone—probably Abraham Coon, an interpreter.

<sup>t</sup>Half King was a Huron chief of Sandusky, Ohio. Under the British he aided the Delawares in their resistance to white settlers but saved a Moravian massacre at Lichtenau in 1777. He was opposed to drunkenness. He signed the treaty of Fort McIntosh as "Daughquat." His son Harvenyou signed the treaties of Greenville, Ft. McIntosh and Springwells. "Dayenty" or Half King was at Detroit as early as 1779 and was present at the council of April 24, 1783. He lived on the Huron Reserve near the River Canard and died about February or March 1791. His daughter lived there after his death. (Mich. Pioneer Colls. Reprint, Vol. 20.)

Burnt or killed to be revenged for his Son, but was prevented by a Belt I gave & is now with the People that Broke him in Coone Acted very well in this Affair & laid it down as a Great Afft on them that gave the Prisoner in I suppos'd he & another will Soon be Sent in to the Command Offr the Indian are daily expecting the Vessel with the Assistance requested Saome time ago so as to be able to goe out & Meet these people before they come to their Town & try to Defend them on the Road—

I am Sir with Compt to Mrs Wms  
Your Very Hble Servt  
WM ARUNDEL

You'll please Send us a Good Clotk for if we have to run we'll want it—

Dumford's to have five Pds for the trip—

Gewan Arrived here from the trip in the last & came as he went [Probably addressed to Thomas Williams\* & Co]

Vol. 817 Page 189.

RICHARD WRIGHT TO THOMAS WILLIAMS & CO

Carleton Island 5th June 1782

Dear Williams

I have nothing Meteral to Rite only that the Brigades of provisions is Dayly Arriveing which to appearance Will Keep me late on the Communication. their is Now at this place About 100 boats Load of Merchantdize, the half of which is Lickquor for Detroit Belonging to Different people. the Loss of the West India Islands Will prevent Any Rum from being Shipt in England this Year. Mr. Thompsons Creditors are Comeing forward Who Expects a Large Sum from him I hop Youl be so Looky As to Git the Balance of My Acct before their Arrival

I now live in a tent on Salt Provotions this affords Nothing better Except a few fish. Enclosed You have Such Accounts as I have Recd. from Mr. Graham—

I think in the Course of the Month of July I shall Likely Leave this Unhabitable Island With the Most of our property—Am Dear Thomas. With the best Respects to Mrs Williams & Johnny. Wishing you all a pleasnt Summer

Your Most Hble Servt  
RICHD WRIGHT

Thomas Williams. Esq.

\*Thomas Williams, a merchant in Detroit who came from Albany, N. Y. in 1765. He married Cecilia Campau, sister of Joseph Campau. Their son John R. Williams was the first mayor of the city of Detroit.

N. GREENE TO JOHN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters Ashley River

Sept 29th 1782

Dear Sir

This will be handed you by Capt Pendleton by whom I intended to have written you a short natural and political history of this Country; but I just recovered from a fever and have a disagreeable sore eye which obliges me to relinquish the design.

Our troubles in this quarter appear to be drawing to a close, Savannah is evacuated and great preparations are making for the evacuation of Charlestown; and if my information is good New York is to be evacuated this fall also. This will give us some repose the next blessing to that of peace. But I think our prospects are flattering for peace and may heaven send her with all her smiling train. However I think we should suspect everything the british do or say. They ought to be regarded as old liars not credited even tho they should speak the truth. If they make peace with us it is from necessity and not out of any affection or good will towards us. Nor is it certain but that they will try to humble the pride of France and then begin anew with us. Was there a proper spirit of union among the States or was the temper of the people more congeneal with the Spirit of our constitutions I should have less apprehensions on this subject than I have but where the head is sick and the heart faint nothing but languor and inactiveity is to be expected. Congress is without power and many of the States indefferent to the common enterest and general safety of the Nation.

Our conflict here has been very severe, the whole Country is in a manner ruined. The disfection of the people has multiplyed the calamities of war. The weeping widows and the destressed Orphan fills the land with mourning. And every part of the Country exhibits monuments of british fury

I hope you are convenced of your mistake that I did not know how to run away, the many specimens I have given in the progress of the Southern war must have convenced you and all the World how groundless your apprehensions on that head. But we have as fully satisfied the british that we know how to advance as we have our friends that we know how to retreat. The Southern States have been much pleased with our exertions; and have manifested their gratitude in a generous way.

Many people of this Country wish to get you to become a Settler here Governor Mathews desired me to write you on the subject. Men of taste and genius are much courted and encouraged by the principal Inhabitants. I think you might improve your fortune; but it might be a tax on your health. I have

been warmly solicited to become an inhabitant of this Country; but I am obliged to be silent on the subject as fortune has too much power over my future plans to fix my residence in any one part of America I shall wish to be near my friends where ever they reside among whom you and Wadsworth hold a place near my heart.—

I am happy to hear the Col is in the high road to wealth—in this fortune cannot be charged with blindness for no man has a better claim to her gifts. He has a noble soul and a generous temper and well diffuse happiness all around him. I love him as a brother and admire him as a friend

I have written more than I intended and more than I ought; but the pleasure of conversing with you has insensibly led me on to this length. If the enemy leave the Country soon I expect to be to the Northward this winter; and cannot help anticipating the pleasure of taking you by the hand. May heaven prove propitious to my wish and give me the pleasure I wish for.

With the warmest attachment, I am  
dear Sir

Your friend and humble Servt  
N GREEN

John Trumbell Esq

Adressed:  
Capt Pendleton.

John Trumbull Esquire

Attorney at Law  
Connecticut

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### WILLIAM HANDS TO ANGUS McINTOSH

Michilimackinac 29th May 1783

Dear MacIntosh

According to my Promise I write you these few lines which should you not Answer you may depend of its being the last scrap you ever Receive, you must Excuse the shortness of it as I have four Letters to write & only two sheets of Paper.—We arrived at this Infernal Dismal Post last Sunday after a Passage of Twelve days & to give you my opinion of it, I believe from the Gulph of St Lawrence to Hudson Bay there is not to be found so Gloomy a Situation, however I hope my Business will not detain me long or I should lose my Senses—

Mr James Grant arrivd half an hour ago from Montreal the first Canoe this Year I need not acquaint you with the News as I suppose you have that some time past

I enquired after Mr McTavish\* & hear he was to leave Montreal the 15th so that we may Expect him in a few days. you may depend on his receiving your Letter & of those of the Grand Portage being forwarded by the very first for that Place. I again Repeat that if I can be of any Service to you here you may Command me I would take the same Liberty with you if Necessary Alex Kay is Expected to morrow—make my bests Respects to the Gentleman of the Mess at Forsyths Particularly to Leith & all enquiring friends & Accept the same from

Yours Sincerely

WILLM HAND†

Mr A McIntosh‡

Merchant Montreal per favor of Mr Freemont I hope I have no Occassion to Remind you that Paper is not scarce at Detroit

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DAVID RANKIN TO THOMAS WILLIAMS & CO.

Michilimakinac June 12th 1784

Gentleman

Your favor of May 29th came Safe to hand as also the Ten Bags of Flour. which I believe will be Sufficient for me untill a new crop be got in. if you have plenty of Rum and can Afford it for ten or Eleven Shillings p Gallon (payable this fall) Send me four or five Barrels by the first opportunity of a Vessel as also my Acct. We have been muched Alarmed here with a Report that the Indians Intended cutting off this post. which I believe that there was a good deal of truth in it. but as they are discovered I hope it will not cum to any further head. but they are still gethering to gether in great numbers from Saugnaes & other places. there was a Scalpe presented in Councle Som days ago by one of the Ottaway Chiefs which was sent them from the Dellawers & Shie-naus Which is supposed was to Execite the Ottaways to Ware

\*Simon McTavish, a fur trader of Montreal, later one of the owners and directors of the Northwest Fur Company. His name appears on the census roll of Detroit in 1782.

†William Hands was sheriff and registrar of Essex, Kent and Lambton, Canada. On Dec. 10, 1789, he married Mary Abbott, oldest daughter of James Abbott of Detroit and lived at Sandwich, Ont., where he died Feb. 20, 1836.

‡Angus McIntosh was one of the early Indian traders in the northwest and factor of the Hudson Bay Co. In 1788 he married Archange de St. Martin. At the time of Jay's treaty McIntosh elected to remain a British citizen. He owned property in Detroit but lived in Sandwich, Ont. in a house which became known as the old "Moy House." Late in life he fell heir to a landed estate called Moy, in Scotland. He died at Moy Hall, Scotland, Jan. 25, 1833. His wife died at Sandwich and was buried there July 13, 1827.

which thy deny but will not give any account for what Reason it was sent. We have news from the Massispey and it appears that the People in General have made very badly  
Gentleman

Your Most Obedient Humble  
Servant

DAVID RANKIN\*

Messrs Thomas Williams & Co  
Merchants  
Detroit

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THOMAS WILLIAMS & CO. TO MURRAY SANSON & CO.

6 doz brass Lock Cocks  
2 ps fine brown jean  
2 ps Drab. do  
12 doz pad Locks assorted  
Messrs Murray Sanson & Co†

Detroit 27th Sept 1785

Gentlemen

Inclosed is an order for Sundry Goods to be shipped on my own account & risk which I flatter myself you will please compleat as near the letter of the order & as reasonable as Possible; If the Post should be given up before the month of July next and no Provision made for goods to come by the way of Canada into the United States , it will be necessary to ship to New York . & in which case I would advise the Coffee, Tea — & Soap to be purchased there . as being much lower than in England. Your Shoemaker I think charges very high for his shoes . I wish they could be had something lower & that they were better assorted then those sent T Williams & Co last year—

The Calliminoes Are also something high . if any could be had at about 23 or 24/ they would — answer the purpose much better being the quality most in demand . As goods are mostly Transported to this place in open boats , it will be necessary to make the packages small than usual in order to be more handy in Loading & Unloading . which is frequently the case in coasting the Great Lakes

1a Shott or ball in abox, 20 prs Blankets, 4ps Stroud . 4 ps Russia.  
3 ps Coating or Ratteen in abale the trunks of the meddling Size  
& every other Package in Proportion to the above . Shipped to —  
Quebec or New York I hope it will be in Earliest & Speediest

\*David Rankin, a merchant at Mackinac who did business in Detroit. In 1781 his name appears as a witness to a deed for the purchase of Mackinac Island.

†Merchants at Albany.

bottoms , as the early arrival often commands, an advantageous Sale . I have enclosed you a pattern for beads : let one half be of that size & the other half somewhat larger

I am Gentn. with the Sinc'rest esteem

Your most Humble Servt.

(Not signed but probably from Thomas Williams & Co.)

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WILLIAM WILSON TO WILLIAM ROBERTSON.

Sandusky Rapids March 22 .d 1788

Dear Sir

I arrived at this place a few Days ago , with an invitation from the Commissioners of Congress to the indians to meet them in may or June next near the falls of Muskingan for the purpose of holding a Treaty , I expect to meet Mr Duncan\* at the Treaty so Soon as it is over & Mr Duncan & myself Returns to pittsburgh one of us intends Seting out for Detroit in order to indeavor if possible to Recover Some of our Lost property (I am affraid So we may call it)

I wrote you from this place in Jan Last I hope it got Safe to hand I Shall thank you for a Line or two on that Subject by the bearer Captn Coon , who Returns to this place before I shall leave it ,

I have directed a Letter herewith sent to your Care for Mr Davision my attorney which pleas forward by the first safe Conveyance you will also pleas present my Respectful Compliments to Mr. Askins

I am Dear Sir your obednt humble  
Servant

W.M. WILSON†

Mr. William Robertson‡  
Mercht Detroit

\*David Duncan was collector of customs at Michilimackinac in 1801, 1805.

†William Wilson was also sent as interpreter to the Miami council in 1792. He died at Greenville and was buried Sept. 5, 1796 during Wayne's expedition.

‡William Robertson was an early merchant who settled at Detroit in 1782. He elected to remain a British subject after Jay's treaty but remained in Detroit until after its surrender to Wayne. He was one of several men who formed a plot to purchase the lower peninsula of Michigan from the United States in 1795. He married Catherine Askin, daughter of John Askin.

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## DAVE MEREDITH TO JOHN ASKIN.

Woolwich , Nov. 29 1791

My Dear Sir,

By the Packet via New York , I did myself the pleasure of writing you a long letter. of the 5th Instant which I flattered myself might reach you by the Winter Express I now embrace the December opportunity which conveys to you the happy information that my dearest Archange has presented me with a Daughter — \* \* \* \* \*

Our Duty here is exceeding severe their being but for inhab few Subalterns at Quarters. We have the Guards every third & fourth Day besides An officer of the Working Party — and of the Week . these with Repository Exercises cause the few remaining to be constantly sash'd — the Duke is still undertermined as to sending us to the out Posts in the ensuring Spring I most heartily wish it may take place , for Woolwich from the dearness of living & — is a situation not to be covered by Officers . of a small income,

The Constitution of France remains yet in an unsettled State and tho the thing has accepted of every point offered him — Yet the learned Politicians aver — it cannot rest long — the Two Princes are still at Coblenz and have an Army of Fourteen or Fifteen thousand Men for the most part officers who have deserted from the National Troops and Voluntarily enlisted under the banners of the Princes who it seems are determined to invade France when they expect to be immediately joined by Prodigious Numbers who are disatisfied with the new fangled Government — The Duke and Duchess of York Arrived at Dover on Friday last and were in Town on Saturday — at York House — She is a woman of a most engaging manner ,— tho not remarkably handsome has been extremely ill since landing ,— great rejoicings are preparing for the next week :—the Nation is highly pleased with the Match ,— the Prince of Wales has made a present to his Sister in law of a Stoamacher so highly beset with Diamonds as to have cost Twenty thousand Pounds — the Duchess first appearance at our Court was a very brilliant one — and no Birth Day was ever so fully attended .— The streets were lined from York Palace to St James and the Honest John Bull's huzzaed the Royal Pair on their progress to the Court. I shall now leave of for the present and finish this letter a day or to hense which will enable me to afford you some other matter,—

Dec'— the 2nd enables me to tell you that both my Archange and little Anne are in good health. \* \* \* Our gracious Duke has just sent orders down for Five Chaplains , Seven Subalterns and Three hundred Men to March to Chatham of our Battalion to relieve the like Number of the

3rd Battn. now stationed there — I much fear it will be my lot to go, his Grace does not consider the Expence acuring to Married officers upon such movements however I shall apply for leave to remain behind until Mrs M is sufficiently strong and Capable ,— the destance is but short .— since writing the above official accounts received by Government and at the India House — inform us that my Lord Cornwallis in the East Indies has given a total defeat to Tippo Saib,\* who has lost almost the whole of his Country — and is now shut up Seringapatam† his Capital and last resort,— the next [accounts] are supposed to give intelligence of that City being in our possession which circumstance would close the War , all is quiet and the only matter in agitation is the formation of a New Settlement—at *Sierra Leona*,‡ upon the African Coast the Principal Merchants in London as well other Monied Men have Subscribed to the Amount of 100, 000 Sterling and a Civil and Military Establishment are now forming which will Sail in the Spring .— the Chief idea is— to raise Sugar Plantations etc and thereby lower the Pride and vast consequence of the West India Merchants — and at the same time Show them and the world at large that such effect can be carried into execution without the attachment of Slavery ,— Goverment have made a present of a large tract of Land to the Sierra Leona Company — which some few years past ( two or three) they had purchased from the natives ,— I know of no other news at present — therefor with much esteem and kind Remembrance to all the Family

\*Tippo Sahib (1749-1799) killed during the siege May 4th.

†Formerly capital of Mysore, India, founded in 1454, situated on an island in Kaveri (Cauvery) River. A formidable stronghold of Tipu Sultan, captured by the British in 1799.

‡Sierra Leone colony on the west coast of Africa. An English fort was built on the Sierra Leone estuary toward the close of the 17th century but was soon abandoned. In 1787 an attempt was made to start a colony of liberated African slaves. This was a failure. In 1791 Falconbridge collected survivors and laid out a new settlement, Granville's town. This was promoted by the Sierre Leona Company but was also unsuccessful.

—and with Complements to Friends in General I subscribe myself with my Archange Love to you her Mother Sister etc etc —

My Dear Sir.—

truly Yours

D. MEREDITH\*

Endorsed

Inland Post Paid

John Askin Esq.\*\*

Merchant at

Detroit

Canada .

To the care of

Messrs Todd† and McGill‡

Merchants at Montreal, Canada

Dec. 3rd .

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DANIEL MERCER TO JOHN ASKIN.

Dublin Barracks July 20 th 1792

My Dear Friend

An opportunity so rarely offers , and when it does I cannot neglect — embracing it of giving you a line as well as to acquaint You with the welfare of my family as to have the pleasure of

\*Capt. David Meredith married Archange the daughter of John Askin and his wife Marie Archange Barthe.

\*\*John Askin was born at Strabane near Belfast, Ireland, about 1741. He came to America during the French and Indian wars in the British army. He became a partner of Robert Rogers of Albany in the Indian trade. After Pontiac's conspiracy he went to the Northwest Territory. His first wife was an Indian woman, their daughter Catherine married first William Robertson and after his death Robert Hamilton, founder of Hamilton, Ont. Mr. Askin's second wife was Marie Archange Barthe, by whom he had nine children. After Jay's treaty Mr. Askin elected to remain a British subject but lived in Detroit until 1802 when he moved to the Canadian shore of the Detroit River not far from Walkerville. His new home he called Strabane. He died in 1818. (Proceedings of the Land Board of Detroit—Governor and Judges Journal. 1915)

†Isaac Todd was an Irish gentleman who came to Montreal and acquired riches. He died May 22, 1821 at Bath, England, leaving a daughter Eleanor and the children of a nephew, Andrew Thornton Todd his heirs.

‡James McGill was born in Glasgow, Scotland, Oct. 6, 1744, and came to America at a very early age, engaging in the mercantile business in Montreal. He amassed a large fortune and held many prominent public offices. He founded McGill College in Montreal and died Dec. 19, 1813.

making inquiry after Yours and our Other friends that are about you I have by accident heard this morning that an Officer leaves this on his way for Detroit , on Sunday and that this letter will be conveyed under cover to Colonel England , Whom we hear that the Command it is to be hoped it will gain its distinction , As I'm persuaded you will receive pleasure to hear that Mrs Mercer . the Girls and myself are well , Theresa has just got the better of a Slight touch of Scarlet fever — You will perceive by this we have got into the Land of promise — where every thing was painted in favorable colors as to cause us to be Desirous of getting to it — altho' You are one of its natives I must say that we do not find it to answer our expectations or even the discription given , and now we have left England , Phillis thinks the exchange for the worse. infact there's no place that we have been too Since we left America that is equal to it we have our earnest wishes to return there again it is probable . You have heard of our leaving England before this will get to hand — however in future that we may not be disappointed from hearing let me entreat You to direct Your Letters — to the care of Mr John Mercer at Uxbridge Where ever I may be he will know where to forward them, it is a length of time Since I was convinced by a letter from under Your own hand that you some time have us in remembrance I assure you & with truth that we frequently have our friend as a Subject of conversation . and with those who feel a pleasure in recapitulate our former Scenes of pleasantry and mirth which we partook of at Detroit — Several of them who would willingly return there again — those who have not Strong inducements as ourselves — We have been in the Country since March last , and by the Common rotine of Duty are likely to continue for 6 to 7 years . before that time expires I think it probable I shall have had enough of Soldiering , My Military rage is already damped and I now Continue in it as a Matter of Convenience . Shd. anything offer suitable to my wishes I should retire from the present Situation in life — 'till then I must weather it on—the goods things of this Country have agreed with us , as You may perhaps hear through Mr Todd whom we Saw hither about a fortnight since and from him we had intellegence from your Quarter . Saying that all was well .— We have not heard anything of Meredith since leaving England neither from Mr Robertson , whom I have wrote to requesting he would communicate information to us whenever he rec. any from his Brother. You find we lay every lure to hear of You, which is in some measure consolement for not having it from under your own hand — In regard to the Regt. there are but four remaining in it whom you remember

The Colonel & Madame continue with us , as does also the Major. Capt Willoe is in a very bad way and if he doth not soon sell out , I think his friends will be sufferers as he doth not

appear to be long for this world , His loss would be to us and some others Irreparable, the same degree of friendship exists with us as ever has done — Burnett , has sustained a very heavy loss in his family Miss Burnett died the 29th May of Consumption I must now come to a conclusion as I mean to convince the commodore that I do not forget him whatever he may think of us , as I shall write to him by this oppty. Phillis joins in love & best wishes to Mrs Askin, Theresa and all your family — not forgering her to her Brother's the Girls also unite in the Same I am with affectionate esteem

Yours D MERCER\*

John Askin Esq.  
at  
Detroit —  
Canada

Vol. 3 Page 16.

TODD, McGILL & CO. TO JOHN ASKIN.

Montreal 28 th . April 1795

Dear Sir,

Since our respects to you of the 31 th Jan. last we have received your Sundry favors of the 31 Dec. 1794 21 st Jany 2 & 4 Feby last and pay due attention to their Contents — To begin with the first — we think you have been fortunate in receiving all your Goods of that year even with a little damage tho' it certainly is always more pleasing when they get to hand without accident — Your Family were well , except yourself from Rheumatic Pains we hope they did not continue long with you and that you are again restored to good Health—we observe the great Consumption of Beaf by the Indians, and as you have the Supplies to make with Mr Robertson — you certainly ought to derive some advantage to recompence you — we have called on Mr Gregory the acting partner for the Nwest Co.y on the subject of a contract for you and find that he had not rec'd any Letter from you on the business by the Winters Express — he is to look over the Contract with Mackintosh and acquaint us — of which you shall be informed —

In settling for the quantity's of flour delivered by you & Mr Robertson into the Kings Store , we had made a Calculation of it at a much higher price than was approved of at Head-Quarters as you will see by comparing the sum at Credit of your Accot,

\*Lieut. Daniel Mercer of the King's or Eighth Regt. was stationed at Michilimackinac in the Engineer's Department 1779-1780. He had an altercation with David Macrai (McCrae) while there and was placed under arrest by Gov. Sinclair. He was stationed at Detroit 1781-1783. (Mich. Pion. Colls.)

Current and the Bill of Parcels pass'd at Quebec of which we inclosed you a Copy—the difference is about 20 d p hundred — of course we bring back the first and Cr you with the record amount as stated—but in settling for Mr Duperne , we have allowed to him for any 108 French weight 117 English which we consider the difference between French & English Weight 8 1/3 P Cent— and the same price as to you P 112 — should we have mistaken the business — this will serve to guide you in rectifying the same — we observe that Corn was likely to rise above 8/. YK—

By yours of the 21st Jany. we observe that you had rec'd the Spirits from Mr Hamilton which are at your debit ——— we observe what you say respecting the mode of delivering flour & the time of obtaining Certificates from the Commissary ——— we suppose you adopt or follow the best you can and where there is no choice you cannot be availed of an alternative whilst you continue to make the Supply—— You say that you will have occasion to draw on us for Money when you send drafts or Receipts for Beef Supplies — we hope that they may be at such dates as to keep us from making advance for we find sometimes Receipts payable at Quebec to lay over longer than is expected — we certainly approve of your resolution and determination to collect your Debts and by your account Current you will see the necessary of applying some remedy to the growing balance — the prospect of Returns from your parts seem not to be flattering nor can we say that they will be bettered by any increase of price tho' we have no certain accounts of the value of peltries from England , yet we do not expect during the continuance of the War, & there is but little hope of a speedy termination , that peltries of any kind will augment —

We find some difficulty in getting Winters enough for Mr Robertson's Battoe , but if we can meet with any for you , we shall hire them and attend to your order if a rough Carpenter can be got—— The goods which wintered with you for Makinac we hope would get forward early — the packet you mention to have rec'd for Mr Todd had not gone to him the 15 Jany last which is very unfortunate indeed — Your other Letters of the 2 & 4 Feby advising of 2 Drafts made over to Mr Duperne & Mr Bonell and to advance about 200 to one of your Men's Wife have been attended to & the Drafts honored — the final article's of hats etc will accompany the Woman and She will have a passage in some of our Boats for Makinac with her little family which consists of three children & herself — Mr. Gregory\* has just called & shewn us a letter from you dated 29 August where in you say " I have renewed the contract for provisions , at the same time assure you the terms are to low however as perhaps others would do it at the same , I can't expect more, but thank the Company for the

\*John Gregory was a merchant of Montreal.

preference" — thus it would appear you have concluded the Contract for yourself & left nothing for us to do in the business

Inclosed we now hand you Amount Current Interest Account made up to the 10th Instant balance owing to us £ 27, 186. 4 . 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  Currency Say Twenty seven thousand and one hundred and Eighty Six pounds 4 3  $\frac{3}{4}$  Currency which after examination if you find right, be pleased to confirm—it is unnecessary for us to dwell on the Magnitude of this sum—the balance increasing yearly cannot be to soon put a stop to & we trust some favorable circumstance may turn up to put it in your power — As occurrences fall in the way we shall from time to time keep you advised & when we can be serviceable be assured our inclination will not be wanting — We remain respectfully —

Dear Sir      Your most obed Servt  
TODD, MCGILL & Co

[To John Askin]

Vol. 3 Page 25

JOHN ASKIN, SR., TO JOHN ASKIN, JR.

Detroit July 5 th 1795

Dear John —

As you were much hurried at leaving this and may have forgot part of what I said to you I think it advisable to repeat the principal matters I spoke to you about —

First I recommend strongly to you to use your utmost influence , not only with the Indians but also with all others whose advice they take to Endeavor that the first article of the Treaty between them and the americans should be that they are sole Masters of their Lands, to dispose of them as they think fit without any restraint Whatsoever which if it can be obtained will be a future Source of wealth for these poor people and their off-spring and Leave it in their powers , not only to confirm Such Sales of Land as they have already made (when they know them to be Just) but in future to reward such others as May be their Friends . this appears to me so reasonable and fair , that I should think the Commissioners for the States could not object to it, and it would secure in my Opinion a Lasting Peace between both , which I apprehend never will be the case should the States lay a Claim to the Indian Lands or force them to a Sale for when what they get is Expected , and their successors in want they will probably have recourse to Violent means tho' they should not succeed — But as it is necessary to provide against the worst , if the Indians thro the needy Interpreters Should be prevailed on in spite of all you can do to agree that the Americans have the

Right of confirming the sales of their Lands, and that none can be Valid without No doubt you will in that case produce your Claims and get the Indians to acknowledge them in open Council and take necessary Steps to secure them , but never at the expense of betraying the Interests of the Indians since the object of Your Voyage Was to save them .—

I am apprehensive that undue means may be taken to gain over the needy Interpreters who have Influence with the Indians to persuade them to Sell or give up the Rights of Selling their Lands to the States , I know you above bribery let the offer be ever so great , Therefore have nothing to Say on that Subject , however other Means may be tried to gain you over such as making you a proposal of so much a year to Manage the — Indian affairs of the Ottawas and Chippewas who have Urged You to go with them . — If that should happen no doubt you will reject it, Some of our double friends have said they would make known to General Weyne those who have acted against him Last year; Poor, weak, Worthless People , to think that any man in power would dislike those who have faithfully done their Duty to the Government they lived under . as you have no favour to ask, and are only with the Indians at their request to befriend them with your advice and to explain what they say, you need not care for the Snubbs or frowns of any man , you have the means of procuring What you want while at Fort Greenville , Therefore except what good manners and politeness requires is all You have to do with the American Gentleman who may be there — I before mentioned it to you and now repeat it again that if any articles of agreement Should be proposed to the Indians by the americans which they or you do not clearly understand Such as Long conventions in writing, You should advise the Indians to ask Leave to Send a Copy of it on here before they give an answer . — It will be Necessary for the Indians with whom you go in the first council they hold to mention who you are, and for what purpose you are gone with them So as You may be distinguished from the numbers who are gone without being asked to Serve their own private Ends only. — I have only to add that in any mater of difficulty Send an Indian to me with an account of what has passed . —

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